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State school district levies ranging from 8 to 90 and equalization funds bring those levies down for those districts that currently have high levies and that currently have little assessed valuation behind each child. I know that the court has said that really that education is not a Federal right. It's not a guaranty, yet one of our goals in this State should be to provide equal educational opportunities for all children and it ought to be on the basis of a comparable price to all taxpayers. There is absolutely no justification for a taxpayer in one district to be paying \$800 or \$900 on his home when a comparable home in another district is \$300 or \$400. The reason of that escapes me. The--LB 448, the original State Aid bill, provided the necessary impetus to take care of those situations to equalize educational opportunities yet we provided authorization, we're as guilty as Congress, this Legislature provided authorization, you said we're going to equalize opportunities, we're going to try to equalize payments by taxpayers and try to make them comparable and then you put \$25,000,000 in a bill; ten years later you put another \$10,000,000 in the bill and it is for those reasons, I'd certainly like to see more State support for public schools, but it's not possible this time. This is the first step and let's put the money where it's needed now. You need so many dollars in equalization to start with and then you can go from there. Mr. Chairman, I move the adoption of my amendment to the standing committee report.

SPEAKER: Senator Whitney

SENATOR WHITNEY: Mr. President and Members of the Legislature. I wish to oppose this amendment. What Senator Lewis wants to do is to cabbage onto most of these funds and put them into his school districts and not let the other school districts have their fair share. This means if this were adopted, there'd be many, many school districts in the State would get nothing. Now I don't feel that this is what State Aid to Education means. By State Aid to Education I think we mean shifting from the property tax to a sales income tax and what he wants to do is to say that in many, many school districts we're not going to let you have any decrease in property tax. He wants it for his school district but not for many, many others in the State. I think this is selfish. I, I wouldn't even think of doing this-- putting on an amendment like this if I were in his position or if I were any Senator in this body. A man like this ought to be ashamed of himself to want to go out here and take money from people who are paying twice as much property tax and then have them also pay sales income tax to support his schools. I just can't feature such a thing happening and I would definitely feel that the committee has considered this. What they've done is certainly far better than what Senator Lewis wants to do and if we're going to adopt anything at all, we should adopt the committee amendment as it is now and not to adopt what Senator Lewis has just proposed so I definitely oppose this and I hope we vote it down.

SPEAKER: Senator Anderson.

SENATOR ANDERSON: Mr. Chairman and Members of the body. I'd like to state at the outset that I am a strong supporter of State Aid to Education and changing the way we pay for our schools but I do want to rise in opposition to Senator Lewis' amendment, where he is proposing that we base this entire additional State aid on the equalization formula. The equalization formula makes the basic assumption that school districts are rich and poor and therefore it says that this difference requires some kind of